

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A mask assembly comprising:

a patient interface in the form of a full face mask including a shell and a face contacting cushion configured for connection to a patient in use, the patient interface being in communication defining a pressurized breathing chamber which in use communicates with a source of gas pressurized above atmospheric pressure, said pressurized breathing chamber being continuously pressurized in use at levels suitable for administration of continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) therapy to the patient; and

a gas washout vent positioned on or adjacent the patient interface to quietly exhaust exhaled gasses under pressure from the pressurized breathing chamber to atmosphere; and

a filter assembly configured to receive gas exhaled by the patient in use, whereby the exhaled gas is vented to atmosphere in proximity to the patient interface following passage through said filter assembly.

2. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly of claim 1, further comprising a connection joint defining a passage between the patient interface and the ~~[[vent]]~~ filter assembly.

3. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 2, wherein the connection joint comprises a T-shaped joint in which case the T-shaped joint is provided in use between the filter assembly and the source of pressurized gas.

4. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 2, wherein the connection joint is an L-shaped joint in which the filter assembly is positioned in use between the source of pressurized gas and the L-shaped joint.

5. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the filter assembly includes an inlet to receive the gas exhausted by the patient, a central chamber, a filter provided in the central chamber, and an outlet configured to release the exhausted gas following filtering.

6. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 5, wherein the filter is made of a hydrophobic material.

7. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 5, wherein the central chamber is provided with a calibration cap including one or more openings.

8. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 7, wherein the calibration cap includes a vent port in communication with the central chamber and a plug for said outlet.

9. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the filter assembly includes an in-line vent positioned in use between the source of pressurized gas and the patient interface.

10. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the filter assembly includes a filter.

11. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 5, wherein the filter has a viral efficiency of greater than 99.999%.

12. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 5, wherein the filter has an impedance of not greater than about 2.0 cm water at about 60 liters per minute.

13. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 1, wherein the filter assembly is positioned in use between the source of pressurized gas and the patient interface.

14. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, further comprising an anti-asphyxia valve.

15. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 14, further comprising a filter cap provided to the filter assembly, wherein the anti-asphyxia valve is provided to the filter cap.

16. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly according to claim 14, further comprising a vent, wherein the anti-asphyxia valve is provided to the vent.

17. (New) A mask assembly comprising:

a patient interface in the form of a full face mask configured for connection to a patient in use, the patient interface being in communication with a source of gas pressurized above atmospheric pressure;

an anti-viral filter assembly configured to receive gas exhaled by the patient in use; and

a vent port positioned on or immediately adjacent the filter assembly, whereby exhaled gas is vented to atmosphere through said vent port just after passing through said filter assembly.

18. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 17, wherein the filter has an impedance of not greater than about 2.0 cm water at about 60 liters per minute.

19. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 17, wherein the filter assembly includes an inlet to receive the gas exhausted by the patient, a central chamber, a filter provided in the central chamber, and an outlet configured to release the exhausted gas following filtering.

20. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 17, wherein the filter assembly includes a housing defining a filter chamber, the housing includes at least one wall or outlet to which the vent port is provided.

21. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 20, wherein the vent port is provided to a wall of the filter chamber.

22. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 17, wherein the vent port takes the form of an in-line vent positioned immediately adjacent to and connected to an outlet of the filter assembly.

23. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 17, wherein the filter assembly is provided between the source of pressurized gas and the patient interface, such that both incoming gas to the patient and vented gas from the patient are filtered in use.

24. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 17, wherein the filter assembly includes an in-line vent positioned in use between the source of pressurized gas and the patient interface.

25. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 17, wherein the patient interface includes a shell and a cushion to contact the patient in use.

26. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 17, wherein the shell includes a first aperture to receive said pressurized gas and a second aperture provided with said filter assembly.

27. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 17, wherein the filter assembly is positioned such that only vented gas is filtered, and gas provided to the patient is not filtered in use.